

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3538

DEPT PASS LABOR DEPT FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH
O'GRADY OR US MISSION GENEVA PASS SUBSTANCE AND BIO TO AFL-CIO
MCCLELLAN AND AIFLD DOHERTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN DELEGATION TO ILO

1. SANTIAGO PRESS MAY 24 HAS LISTED EIGHT LABOR DELEGATES TO ILO CONGRESS, FIVE EMPLOYER AND ONE GOC DELEGATE. OTHER SOURCES (INCLUDING ACTING DIRECTOR OF ILO/CHILE) SAY THAT PRESS OMITTED NAME OF GUILLERMO MEDINA, A LOCAL LEADER OF ONE OF THE EL TENIENTE MINE UNIONS. THESE REPORTS INDICATE THAT MEDINA WILL HEAD LABOR DELEGATION. NAMES OF DELEGATES AND BRIEF BIO DATA FOLLOW. WORKER DELEGATION IS LIGHT WEIGHT AND LARGELY A GOC CAPTIVE.

2. GOC DELEGATES -- ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED IN NEWS ACCOUNTS, WE HAVE REPORTS THAT GOC DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY CURRENT CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO UN/GENEVA, ABELARDO SILVA DAVIDSON. IF SO, HE WILL MORE THAN LIKELY BE ONLY TITULAR HEAD OF DELEGATION.

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT UNDERSEC LABOR, LUIS RIBALTA PUIG, WILL HEAD GOC DELEGATION. A CIVILIAN, RIBALTA HAS BEEN UNDERSEC SINCE JULY 1974. HE IS YOUNG (ABOUT 33 YEARS), INTELLIGENT LAWYER WHO PRIOR TO GOC SERVICE WAS ACTIVE IN NATIONAL PARTY POLITICS. HE IS GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS OPEN
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MINDED AND CONSERVATIVE BUT NOT EXTREMIST. RIBALTA WILL BE

ACCOMPANIED BY HIS TECHNICAL ADVISER, HUGO GALVEZ.

4. WORKER DELEGATES:

GUILLERMO MEDINA GALVEZ - AS REPORTED ABOVE MEDINA WILL PROBABLY HEAD WORKER DELEGATION. HE IS THE HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL LEADER OF THE PRE-COUP TENIENTE COPPER MINE STRIKE AND WILL PROBABLY EVOKE STRONG ATTACKS FROM CUT EXILES. MEDINA IS ABOUT 42 YEARS OLD. HE IS A LEGITIMATE UNION LEADER BUT HAS NEVER HELD OFFICE IN OTHER THAN LOCAL UNION (SINDICATE DE EMPLEADOS PARTICULARES DE RANCAGUA - TENIENTE). HE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REJECTED BY THE COPPER WORKER CONFEDERATION (CONFED. DE TRABAJADORES DE COBRE - CTC), WHO PUBLICLY CLAIMED HE SPEAKS ONLY FOR HIS SMALL LOCAL UNION; AND HAS BEEN EXPELLED FROM CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC). HE OBVIOUSLY IS VERY CLOSE TO HIGH GOC OFFICIALS, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HIS ROLE IN THE TENIENTE STRIKE. MEDINA'S APPOINTMENT AS HEAD OF LABOR DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY PROVOKE STRONG ATTACKS CENTERING ON LEGITIMACY OF LABOR DELEGATION.

HERNOL FLORES OPAZO, ABOUT 44 YEARS OLD, MEMBER OF DEMOCRATIC RADICAL PARTY (PDR), PRESIDENT OF POSTAL TELEGRAPHERS ASS'N. AND VICE PRES. OF NATIONAL ASS'N. OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS (ANEF). HE IS LEGITIMATE UNION LEADER WHO HAS REPUTATION AMONG CHILEAN LABOR LEADERS AS AN OPPORTUNIST AND OF CLOSE COOPERATION WITH PRESENT GOC.

CARLOS ORTEGA ROCCO, OF THE PDC IS ABOUT 37-YEAR-OLD PRESIDENT BANK WORKERS FEDERATION (FEDEBACH). HE TOO HAS REPUTATION OF CLOSE, UNQUESTIONING ALLEGIANCE TO GOVERNMENT BUT IS A LEGIMATE NATIONAL LEVEL TRADE UNION LEADER.

WASHINGTON SEPULVEDA FLORES, PDC, 40 YEARS OLD, IS PRES. OF THE LARGE FED. OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS (FENATS). PRIOR TO MILITARY COUP HE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST OUTSPOKEN LABOR LEADERS IN CHILE. AFTER A SERIES OF ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS IN FEW MONTHS FOLLOWING THE COUP, HE BECAME ONE OF GOVERNMENT'S MOST FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS. SEPULVEDA HAS CONFIDED TO US THAT HE EXPERIENCED SOME "MALTRAATMENT" AT HANDS OF THE MILITARY, BUT BEYOND THAT WILL NOT DISCUSS HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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DETENTIONS OR HIS CHANGE IN DIRECTION.

BERNARDINO ("EL CABEZON") CASTILLO CASTILLO, PDC, ABOUT 52, IS A DIRECTOR OF SMALL UNION OF WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES OF CHUQUICAMATA COPPER MINING CO. IN ANTOFAGASTA; IS ALSO PRES. OF THE COUNCIL ("ZONAL") OF ALL EIGHT OF THE CHUQUICAMATA UNIONS. HE IS A POLITICAL MODERATE WHO HAS CAUTIOUSLY EXPRESSED CRITICISM OF GOC. HE HAS CONFIDED TO US THAT HE DOES NOT WANT

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA MEETING BUT HAS BEEN "PRESSURED" INTO GOING.

HECTOR ("PATO") GALAZ NUNEZ, PDC, ABOUT 45, IS PRES. OF UNION OF WORKERS OF MADEMSA (MANUFACTURERS OF LARGER HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES) OF SANTIAGO. HE HAS A GOOD REPUTATION AMONG CHILEAN LEADERS. HE WAS A MILITANT OPPONENT OF THE UP GOVT. AND HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS CRITIC OF PRESENT GOC. HIS NOMINATION WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE LEAST CRITICISM FROM PRESENT CHILEAN LABOR LEADERSHIP OR FROM THOSE OUTSIDE COUNTRY.

PEDRO BRICENO, ABOUT 35, WAS RECENTLY EXPELLED FROM PDC. HE WAS ELECTED PRES OF UNION OF WORKERS OF HUACHIPATE STEEL MILL (NEAR CONCEPCION) TWO DAYS BEFORE MILITARY COUP. HE REMAINED RELATIVELY NEUTRAL UNTIL ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO, WHEN HE BECAME ONE OF THE MOST OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTERS OF THE JUNTA AND IN PARTICULAR OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET. HIS CONTEMPORARIES IN CONCEPCION ATTRIBUTE THE TRANSFORMATION TO A SERIOUS HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED WHILE DRUNK AND FOR WHICH HE WAS NEVER BROUGHT TO TRIAL. HE IS AN INEXPERIENCED LEADER WHO NOW CONSIDERS HIMSELF THE "CZAR" (HIS OWN TERM) OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR OF CONCEPCION. HE IS STILL A HEAVY DRINKER AND THE MOST OBNOXIOUS TRADE UNIONIST LABATT HAS ENCOUNTERED IN HIS CAREER.

RAUL ORREGO, IS NOT WELL KNOWN HERE. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE RECENT FOUNDING MEETING OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF UNITY (MOVIMIENTO DE UNIDAD NACIONAL - SANTIAGO 3044). HE IS A MINOR LEADER IN A SMALL PEASANT ORGANIZATION CALLED "PROVINCIAS AGRARIAS UNIDAS" -- AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION.

PATRICIA PICK IS ANOTHER UNKNOWN IN UNION CIRCLES. SHE IS A TEACHER IN A PRIVATE SANTIAGO SCHOOL WHO WAS RECENTLY NAMED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO THE NATIONAL LABOR ADVISORY COUNCIL. THE ILO DIRECTOR TELLS US SHE HAS HAD NO CONNECTION OR EXPERIENCE IN LABOR AND WAS PROBABLY NAMED TO PROVIDE FEMALE REPRESENTATION ON THE DELEGATION.

5. EMPLOYER DELEGATES:

RAFAEL RIVERA SANHUEZA, CHIEF LAWYER OF SOFOFA (CHILEAN NAM), 40 YEARS OLD, 3 YEARS WITH SOFOFA.

ARSENIO ALCALDE, CIVIL ENGINEER. NATIONAL ADVISER OF CAMARA CHILENA DE LA CONSTRUCCION (CONSTRUCTION CHAMBER), 48 YEARS OLD AND 17 YEARS WITH CAMARA DE LA CONSTRUCCION, OF WHICH HE WAS PRESIDENT, AUGUST 1970-AUGUST 1971.

RAUL GARCIA ASTABURUAGA, LAWYER. LEGAL ADVISER OF SNA
(NATIONAL SEC OF AGRICULTURE) AND CAMARA DELLA CONSTRUCTION.
THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OLD. IN BOTH JOBS SINCE 1967.

BELTRAN SAEZ, LAWYER. LEGAL ADVISER OF CAMARA MARITIMA (MARITIME
CHAMBER) FOR 11 YEARS. FORTY-FOURIYEARS OLD.

GERARDO ZEGERS, DIRECTOR OF SINDICATO DE EMPLEADORES METAL-
URGICOS (ASSN OF METAL MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS) SINCE JANUARY
1972 AND PRES SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973. FORTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD.

6. COMMENT: THIS YEAR'S WORKER DELEGATION DOES NOT INCLUDE A
SINGLE LABOR LEADER OF THE STATURE OF EDUARDO RIOS OR ERNESTO
VOGEL, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S SESSION. IF
GUILLERMO MEDINA HEADS THE DELEGATION, IT WILL BE A RED FLAG
IN FRONT OF CHILE'S CRITICS. THE WORKER DELEGATION IS ONE OF
LIGHT WEIGHTS WHO IN GREAT PART UNSWERVINGLY SUPPORT JUNTA
POLICIES, WHICH ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNPOPULAR AMONG
CHILEAN WORKERS. CHILE'S CRITICS WILL DOUBTLESS RECOGNIZE
THIS AND TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.

7. MOST MAJOR LABOR LEADERS INDICATE TO US THAT THEY HAVE
NOT BEEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE BUT WOULD HAVE SOUGHT EXCUSES
TO DECLINE IF THEY HAD BEEN; SEVERAL RECEIVED INFORMAL
INVITATIONS FROM GOC OFFICIALS BUT REBUFFED THE OVERTURES.
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MOST MAJOR LEADERS BELIEVE THAT CHILE HAS AN UNTENABLE POSITION
THIS YEAR AND THAT THE LIGHT WEIGHT DELEGATION WILL BE
OVERWHELMED. EMPLOYER DELEGATES ARE NOT LIKELY TO DEVIATE FROM
GOC POSITION.

8. FROM AIFLD/CHILE DIRECTOR CAMPOS FOR AIFLD/W DOHERTY.
RECOMMEND THAT AIFLD POSTURE TOWARD CHILEAN LABOR DELEGATION
BE COOL BUT POLITE. I BELIEVE THAT ANY WARM DEMONSTRATIONS OF
SUPPORT OR CORDIALITY WILL TEND TO DISCREDIT US WITH VAST
MAJORITY OF CHILEAN LEADERS, WHO LOOK ON MOST OF LABOR DELEGATION
WITH CONTEMPT.
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